

I strongly support a FREE national do not call list. The idea that I should pay my telephone company to block the calls feels like extortion. And what is most ironic is the worst offenders for calls to my household are the phone companies themselves. It doesn't matter how many times you tell them that you are not interested, they keep calling every few days.

I feel that forcing consumers to individually pay for local or national do not call services is wrong. We pay each time the telemarketer interrupts our sleep or our dinner. We pay each time we are forced to take the phone off of the hook in order to avoid the pestering calls.

The cost of implementing and supporting the national service should rest solely on the shoulders of the telemarketing industry. They make billions of dollars a year by pestering us. It's time they gave some of it back.

I also feel that the consumers should have the option to selectively block different categories of calls. Examples include: telecommunications pitches, general retail, real estate, travel, political solicitation, charities, etc. That way, WE get to decide if we want to remain open to some of the calls. Simply inserting catch-all exemptions to non-profits, political parties, and/or charities will only encourage the worst offenders to attempt to repackage their offers in a form that will allow them to continue calling you. Furthermore, whether we like it or not, some people simply are not interested in politics, and they would appreciate the opportunity to block calls of this type. This is not suppression of freedom of speech since the list is exclusively VOLUNTARY. The Bill of Rights guarantees the right to present your message to willing listeners, it allows one to speak, it does not force one to listen.

If you are going to spend my tax dollars to create the list, then make sure you do it right. Allow me to selectively prevent and allow different types of solicitation calls. Create stiff penalties for violations, provide an effective means for consumers to report violations, and ENFORCE THE PENALTIES that you create.

I apologize for the length of this message, but I am grateful for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter.

Thank you,

Paul Woods